



THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 49 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in July and August 2017. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

We are pleased to report that Think Tank publication activity did not subside over the summer. As a result, this issue covers a wide variety of topics - here we will give you a sample of what is on offer from the broad selection of publications in this month's issue.

As we approach our 50th issue, the issue of fake news seems to us to be particularly relevant. Accordingly, our special focus contains publications on this issue and the role it plays in the political media landscape.

We cover the issue of fake news from a number of different angles. One article covers the trade in firearms, explosives and ammunition on the dark web, highlighting concerns about the online black market and the latter's connection with terrorist activity. Another publication discusses the issue of EU resilience in the virtual domain and provides an analysis of globalisation through the lens of cyberspace. *Wedding out fake news: an approach to social media regulation* is a particularly fascinating read. Here Konrad Niklewicz identifies the pros and cons related to the ease of access to political content. The articles featured in the special focus section cover a range of different perspectives, although two recurring themes are the challenges facing regulatory bodies and the impact that this has on society. These articles focus on the need for people to assess media sources more critically and raise the underlying issue of trust. Although communication has been freed up, a lack of reliability and accountability could pose a sincere threat to the very principles of democracy. The result is a greater need for tighter regulation, the amendment of press laws, or efforts made to ensure that filtering is used and designed in such a way as to counter and check misinformation effectively.

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The publications in the 'EU Politics and Institutions' section range from President Juncker's top ten priorities and the provocatively titled publication 'The European Union could be simple, inclusive, or effective. Pick Two'.

In the 'Economic and Financial Affairs' section, the Centre for European Policy Studies raises the issue of transparency in the EU Council's budget. The authors analyse the various constraints and make a number of recommendations as regards achieving greater accountability.

The third section, devoted to 'EU Member States' covers a diverse range of issues relating to each Member State including the implications of Brexit for UK agriculture, the impact that immigration has on wage dynamics and reactions to the recent attacks in Barcelona (approaches to countering terrorism).

Section four on 'EU Policies' covers youth employment in the EU and the future of transactions using a digital currency.

A substantial proportion of this month's Think Tank Review is section five - 'Foreign Affairs'. This section includes interesting publications covering Europe's options as regards the North Korea crisis, the future of democracy in Africa, and Trump's national security strategy.

We would also like to share with you two thought-provoking texts: a report by Policy Exchange, [The Net War: Countering Extremism Online](#) and an article from the London School of Economics and Political Science, entitled '[How support from other Member States affects influence in the Council of the European Union](#)'.

The Review can be downloaded from our [blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at library@consilium.europa.eu.

The next Review will be out in October 2017, with papers published in September 2017.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

What holds Europe together? The EU in the wake of Brexit

by Richard Hilmer

15 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.) and in [German](#) (28 p.)

This report surveys people's perception of the EU in several European countries, in the aftermath of the UK's decision to leave the EU. It shows that a majority of citizens now associate the EU with positive advantages such as opportunities and prosperity. It also demonstrates a willingness for tighter cooperation between Member States, and to transfer more responsibilities to from the national to the European level.

European Parliament Think Tank

The European Commission at mid-term: state of play of President Juncker's ten priorities

by Étienne Bassot [@EtienneBassot](#) and Wolfgang Hiller [@WolfgangHiller](#)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

This publication provides an overview of the work carried out by the European Commission at the midterm of its mandate under Jean-Claude Juncker's presidency, and more specifically provides an update of the initiatives taken in the framework of the ten priority areas for action.

Atlantic Council

The European Union could be simple, inclusive, or effective. Pick two.

by Dimitar Toshkov [@DToshkov](#)

June 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

To many, the EU is a complex entity overburdened by rules. In this article the author presents the structural dilemma facing the EU: accommodating the diverse interests of twenty-eight Member States while delivering effective policies for over 510 million citizens in a simple way.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The reform of the EU courts (IV)

by Franklin Dehousse [@FrDe2059](#)

30 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

The European Court of Justice has regularly been accused of activism. Recently, this debate has become more acute, partly due to Brexit. Many academic comments and national judgments reflect a decrease in the perceived quality of the Court's jurisprudence. This report studies the causes of this reduced quality and examines possible reforms, which should allow the Court to focus better on its core functions.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The fight for democracy

by Gerhard Wahlers (ed.)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (120 p.)

Democracy is not a matter of course, as a glance beyond our immediate horizon illustrates. To paraphrase Konrad Adenauer, democracy must be filled with life every day and, where necessary, defended vigorously, both internally and externally.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Coalition democracy in Europe

by Alexis Fourmont

10 July 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (7 p.) and [English](#) (7 p.)

In real terms parties do not just play an electoral role. Their vocation is eminently political, since the formation of the "party government" suggests that they play a vital role, acting in terms of the exercise of power itself. Of course, today political parties struggle to create a structure for themselves and to rationalise democratic policy, but this has not always been the case.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Comprehensive compilation on democratic innovation

by Laura-Kristine Krause and Hanno Burmester

27 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

This compilation provides a substantial overview on the debate of democratic innovation and selected best practices in the field. It is intended to serve as a starting point for deeper work on these issues and a motivation to think about the potential of democratic innovation yet to be seized.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Public policies to promote venture capital: how to get national and EU measures in sync

by Philipp Ständer [@P_Staender](#)

31 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

The venture capital industry is an important catalyst for a thriving start-up ecosystem, but Europe's VC market is still small and fragmented. In this paper, the author assesses the policy toolbox of Member States and EU institutions to promote VC investments and proposes two initiatives that would address the issue of market fragmentation.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

El futuro de las finanzas de la UE: el largo camino hacia una reforma del Marco Financiero Plurianual de la UE más allá de 2020

by Mario Kölling

10 July 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (12 p.)

According to the author, recent years have shown the limitations of the EU budget and in particular of the model based on the MFF. The presentation by the European Commission of its reflection document on the future of the EU's finances accelerates the debate on the MFF for the period after 2020.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Transparency and oversight of the Council's budget: Council executive powers

by Giacomo Benedetto [@ggbenedetto](#), David Rinaldi [@Rinaldi_David](#) and Hartmut Aden

20 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

This briefing introduces the challenges that have been faced in delivering a discharge - or approval - of the Council's budget over the last decade, with particular regard to the Council's executive activities. The authors analyse the institutional and legal constraints and put forward a number of recommendations aimed at achieving more accountability regarding the Council's budget and executive expenditure without resorting to treaty reform.

Fiscal policy stabilisation and the financial cycle in the euro area

by Cinzia Alcidi

28 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

This paper examines the impact of the financial cycle on the capacity of the economy to deal with shocks, with a particular focus on fiscal policy in the euro zone Member States. It also examines if and how the financial cycle affects international risk-sharing among euro zone Member States and finds that economic booms and busts are often associated with phases of financial integration and disintegration at the level of the euro area. The paper concludes that macro-prudential policies are an important tool for preventing excessive swings in the financial cycle, but they should be complemented by a central stabilisation mechanism.

Key findings of the ECRI statistical package 2017

by Carolina Raquel Melches

25 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

The total outstanding credit from MFIs to households and NFCs in 2016 showed an increase of 0.7% in the EU 28 compared to the previous year. Among credit types, consumer credit experienced the strongest annual growth, while housing loans remained on a slower but steady growth path. The country group of new Member States that acceded in and after 2004 constitute an annual growth rates at country level show a much smaller variation on a range half as wide as in the preceding year, suggesting that credit markets for NFCs are stabilising and could soon enter recovery as well.

Equilibrium real interest rates and secular stagnation: an empirical analysis for euro-area member countries

by Ansgar Belke and Jens Klose

4 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

Is secular stagnation - a period of persistently lower growth such as that seen following the financial crisis of 2008-09 - a valid concern for euro-area countries? This article tackles the question using the Laubach-Williams model to estimate the unobservable equilibrium real interest rate and compare it to the actual real rate. In light of the considerable increase in heterogeneity among EU member countries since the beginning of the financial crisis, the approach is applied to 12 euro zone Member States to provide country-level answers to the question of secular stagnation.

Introducing EU reduction targets on regulatory costs: a feasibility study

by Andrea Renda [@arendat111](#)

12 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (106 p.)

This report looks at the feasibility of a European Commission initiative aimed at adopting net reduction targets for regulatory costs. As many as 14 alternative options are compared in terms of their comprehensiveness, accuracy, methodological simplicity, timeliness of implementation and compatibility with existing political commitments. The study calls for the adoption of a sequential approach to cost reduction, which implies that the Commission starts setting reduction targets in selected policy areas as early as the end of 2017, and gradually builds capacity over time on the quantification of regulatory costs for all the relevant EU acquis.

Cyclical investment behaviour across financial institutions

by Yannick Timmer [@timmer_yannick](#)

13 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (61 p.)

This paper contrasts investment behaviour of financial institutions in debt securities as a response to price changes. Banks and investment funds respond in a pro-cyclical manner to price changes. Insurance companies and pension funds act counter-cyclically, however; they buy after price declines and sell after price increases. The heterogeneous responses can be explained by differences in their balance sheet structure. Within-sector variation in the financial constraint is used to show that tighter constraints are associated with more pro-cyclical investment behaviour.

Precautionary recapitalisations: time for a review

by Willem Pieter De Groen

12 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

With the introduction of the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive, public capital contributions to insolvent banks should have become a thing of the past or an extremely unlikely eventuality. The precautionary recapitalisation of Banca Monte dei Paschi seems to offer evidence to the contrary. Based on a review of the empirical literature and the recent resolution of Banco Popular and MPS, this paper argues that a precautionary recapitalisation facility can be in the taxpayers' interest only under very specific circumstances and conditions. The current rules on precautionary recapitalisation should therefore be revised.

Case - Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (Center for Social and Economic Research)

Potential impact of financial innovation on financial services and monetary policy

by Marek Dabrowski

18 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

Monetary policy and the basic mission of central banks (maintaining price stability) has not been seriously affected by financial innovation. Demand for cash and central bank reserve money has not disappeared. On the contrary it increased significantly after the global financial crisis. Even if the wounds to financial intermediation caused by this crisis finally heal, demand for reserve money will remain at a higher level than before the crisis (due to more restrictive financial regulation, among other reasons). Central banks will continue playing their statutory missions, even if certain technical aspects of their activity must be modified as a result of financial innovation.

CEPII - Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales

Trilemma, dilemma and global players

by Samuel Ligonnière [@SamuelLigonnier](#)

August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

This paper investigates the debate between the Mundellian trilemma and the dilemma. It focuses on the active role of the exchange rate regime. Overall, the global financial cycle magnifies the binding effect of financial openness on monetary policy autonomy, thus at the same time sharply reducing the effectiveness of the floating exchange rate regime to isolate the domestic economy against financial pressures. This article provides empirical evidence that the trilemma does not morph into a dilemma. Furthermore, the sensitivity to the global financial cycle depends less on the fluctuations of these financial forces than on the presence of global investors and global banks.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Karlsruhe refers the QE case to Luxembourg: summer of love

by Matthias Goldmann

18 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

In 2017, the Bundesverfassungsgericht (BVerfG) referred the case against the European Central Bank's policy of Quantitative Easing (QE) to the European Court of Justice (ECJ). This paper argues that this event differs from the OMT case in 2015. The author raises the questions of whether the principle of democracy under German constitutional law can actually provide the standard by which the ECB is to be measured, and how tight judicial review could be exercised

over the ECB without encroaching upon its autonomy in monetary policy matters – and thus upon the very essence of central bank independence.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Are the spending priorities of euro-area countries converging?

by Jörg Haas and Robin Huguenot-Noël

30 June 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

Government expenditure amounts to between 30 and 60% of GDP in the euro area. Which countries spend the most? To what extent do countries differ in their spending priorities? Has there been any convergence since the introduction of the common currency? This paper analyses data on general government spending in the euro area and presents it in seven charts.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

FRANCE

Institut Montaigne

Nouveau monde arabe, nouvelle "politique arabe" pour la France

by Hakim El Karoui [@helkaroui](#)

August 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (210 p.)

France and the MENA region have a scorching relationship. Our historical and human ties go deep and should grow in the coming decades. Have we taken the measure of this common destiny? Does our strategy live up to the challenges of a region undergoing major transformation and conveying major risks? This report was born of a challenge: collect and analyse all the flows that unite France and the countries of this region.

CEPII - Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales

The impact of immigration on wage dynamics: evidence from the Algerian independence war

by Anthony Edo

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (78 p.)

This paper investigates the dynamics of wage adjustment to an exogenous increase in labour supply by exploiting the sudden and unexpected inflow of repatriates to France created by the independence of Algeria in 1962. The author tracks the impact of this particular supply shift on the average wage of pre-existing native workers across French regions in 1962, 1968 and 1976. By increasing the relative supply of high educated workers, the inflow of repatriates contributed to the reduction of wage inequality between high and low educated native workers over the whole period considered (1962-1976).

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Extremismus in Frankreich - Herausforderung von drei Seiten

by Nino Galetti and Tatjana Saranca

14 July 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (15 p.)

While right-wing and left-wing extremists have played a political role since the French Revolution, Islamic extremism is a recent phenomenon. Already as a result of the Algerian civil war in the 1990s, France was again and again the victim of Islamist-motivated attacks. With the terrorist attacks in Paris in 2015 and in Nice in July 2016, the Islamic threat has arrived in France. In addition, there is the realization that this threat arises from radicalized Islamists born and grown up in France.

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

La subrogation du crédit d'impôt des services à la personne

by Bruno Despujol, Dominique Reynié [@DominiqueReynie](#) and Olivier Peraldi [@olivierperaldi](#)

25 August 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (52 p.)

The elimination of the tax credit gap that the current system imposes on households is the mechanism set out in this note. It is intended to boost the dynamics of personal services through

the promotion of access to services by the greatest number of people. This cash shortage hinders the use of personal services, hindering the development of this sector with potentially significant positive effects on employment and growth. The note wants to contribute to the creation of a new political culture intimately associating with civil decision-makers, actors of civil society and the entrepreneurial world. The method is based on a shared identification of the general interest.

Marché du travail: pour la réforme!

by Fayçal Hafied [@faycal_hafied](#)

26 July 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (64 p.)

This paper aims to reactivate and develop all arguments delivered for discussion and concertation in the framework of the reform of the French labour market.

Institut pro evropskou politiku EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy)

France and the V4 in a multi-speed Europe: rough times ahead?

by Martin Michelot [@martinmichelot](#)

9 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

There is understandable concern in Central and Eastern Europe regarding the potential effects of deeper Eurozone integration on their bargaining power in Brussels, and their ability to influence the decisions that will seemingly increasingly be driven by Berlin and Paris. Besides the above-stated fact that this process will be driven largely by whether France will be able to reform and convince Germany to drop its reluctance for greater risk sharing in the Eurozone, some consideration should also be given by prospective Eurozone members as to the potential benefits that such plans can provide for the long-term health of their economies.

GERMANY

Fondation Robert Schuman

Germany: a fourth term in office for Angela Merkel?

by Corinne Deloy

5 September 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.) and in [French](#) (8 p.)

The author discusses the main elements concerning the German federal elections that are to be held on the 24 September. The author also explains how the Chancellor has focused the campaign on herself, standing as the guarantor for the country's stability and prosperity, and using her economic results. For Angela Merkel, Europe and employment are the two main issues in the electoral campaign.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Germany's "Islampolitik": old problems, new challenges, current debates

by Andreas Jacobs

8 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

For decades, Germany has struggled to give Islam equal legal status to the established religions. Recent challenges and developments brought back some dynamism to the present immovable state of affairs. Most notably, the legal situation of Islam and Muslim organisations is currently in a process of reassessment. Additionally, politicians, academics and commentators have brought up several proposals about the strengthening of loyalty of Muslims towards state and society in

Germany. These debates demonstrate the need for a major restatement of Germany's "Islampolitik".

Digitalisierung im deutschen Arbeitsmarkt : eine Debattenübersicht

by Philippe Lorenz

2 August 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (21 p.)

The present policy paper issued jointly by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Stiftung Neue Verantwortung addresses the question of how digitalisation effects the labor market. It remains to be seen whether the losses can be compensated by the emergence of new jobs. In Germany, an optimistic position is generally prevalent, as its citizens tend to assume that digitalisation will enrich the labor market with new jobs.

Flight, refugee protection and integration - Developments and policy decisions in Germany

by Benedict Göbel

27 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

This paper analyses the developments and policy decisions on migration in Germany.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Microfinance - Once and today

by Reinhard Schmidt

23 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

The German savings and cooperative banks of the 19th century were precursors of modern microfinance. They provided access to financial services for the majority of the German population, which was formerly excluded from bank funding. Furthermore, they did this at low costs for themselves and affordable prices for their clients. Considering these experiences alongside lessons learned from modern microfinance can guide current policy for present and future models of microfinance business.

ITALY

European Policy Centre

New pact for Europe: national report - Italy

by Riccardo Alcaro and Eleonora Poli [@Poli_Eleonora](#)

7 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

This report is inspired by the discussions of the Italian National Reflection Group and enriched by exchanges with National Reflection Groups from Poland and Germany. It reflects on the 'state of the Union' from a national perspective and discusses the main challenges the EU and its members are facing, considering both the European and national perspectives. Finally, this report proposes ideas and recommendations on how the EU and its members should respond to these challenges, and sets out how the EU and European integration should develop in the years to come.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Defence budget and industry

by Paola Sartori [@SartoriPal](#) and Giovanni Finarelli Baldassarre

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.) and in [Italian](#) (15 p.)

This infographic, designed by the Istituto Affari Internazionali, provides an overview of defence budgets from the main European countries, the European aerospace, and security and defence industries. The authors draw specific attention to the Italian defence expenditure, Italian participation to international missions, industrial cooperation and Italian exports in the defence field.

Riformare la Difesa italiana: verso un nuovo modello di supporto logistico?

by Alessandro Riccardo Ungaro [@AleRUnga](#), Paola Sartori [@SartoriPal](#) and Federico Palmieri [@fed_palmieri](#)

July 2017

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (16 p.)

Logistic support has often been considered an ancillary issue within the defence procurement strategies of many MoDs, with negative trickle-down effects both on the system's effectiveness and on process efficiency. Recently, a new trend has brought logistic support to become increasingly important in both operational and technological-industrial terms, with the progressive transition towards performance-based models. During the last decades, the Italian Ministry of Defence has also been trying to open up to new methods of logistic support. In this field, the 2015 White Paper highlighted the need for a review of the management model for acquisition, logistics, and general support.

LUXEMBOURG

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

Luxembourg law on space resources rests on contentious relationship with international framework

by Philip De Man

14 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

In August 2017, the Luxembourg Law on the use of space resources entered into force, declaring these resources 'capable of being appropriated', however the law initially suffered a brief delay when a previous draft had to be amended following a negative advice. Fundamentally, the advice questioned the effectiveness of the draft law in realising its objective of creating legal certainty for private space mining companies and investors in light of the persisting ambiguity surrounding the application of the existing international space law framework to space resources. This article aims to shed light on this broader debate.

SPAIN

Centre for European Policy Studies

Reflections on the terrorist attacks in Barcelona: constructing a principled and trust-based EU approach to countering terrorism

by Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild and Valsamis Mitsilegas

29 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

This paper examines EU counter-terrorism policies in the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks of August 2017 in Catalonia and explores what more the EU can do to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of those policies. The authors argue that the EU's present policy is based on two long-standing (mis)conceptions, namely that existing priorities and instruments are effective in preventing, investigating and prosecuting terrorist crimes and that EU principles and fundamental rights act as obstacles to efficient law enforcement.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

No es sólo vender más, sino mejor: la siguiente fase en la internacionalización de la economía española

by Pablo López Gil [@pablolopezgil](#) and Enrique Verdeguer Puig

31 August 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (14 p.)

According to the paper, if Spain wants the foreign sector to become a pillar of economic growth, it should make an effort to increase the degree of sophistication and differentiation of its offer.

Dos factores que explican la radicalización yihadista en España

by Fernando Reinares [@F_Reinares](#), Carola García-Calvo [@carolagc13](#) and Álvaro Vicente

9 August 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (13 p.)

According to the article, the contact with an agent of jihadist radicalisation and the existence of previous social ties with radicalised individuals explains why, in Spain, there are Muslims who adhere to a violent manifestation of Salafism and are involved in terrorist activity.

Análisis de la presencia de España en la prensa mundial durante 2016

by Juan Antonio Sánchez Giménez [@Elcano_Juan](#), Elena Sotos Olmo [@elena_sotos](#) and Tamara Vázquez Barrio [@tamara_vzquez](#)

31 July 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (44 p.)

The purpose of this study is to analyse the presence of Spain in the international press, in paper and digital formats, as well as the reaction that generates its image in most influential newspapers.

Spain's contribution to Euro-Atlantic security

by Aurora Mejía

20 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

This paper takes stock of Spain's contribution to Euro-Atlantic security.

La evolución de la ultraderecha en España: claves históricas y territoriales

by Xavier Casals [@xaviercasalsm](#)

19 July 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (9 p.)

Since the end of Francoism the Spanish extreme-right has articulated itself from three cities: Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia, each with specific features.

Hacia una ley de financiación de la defensa en España

by Carlos Calvo and Antonio Fonfría

4 July 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (10 p.)

Spain needs a law on the financing of the national defence in order to meet its military needs to cover outstanding programmes, industrial policy and implement fiscal orthodoxy required by the Constitutional Court and the Court of Auditors.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Assessing the impact of a minimum income scheme in the Basque Country

by Sara de La Rica [@saradelarica](#) and Lucía Gorjón

3 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

In this paper the authors assess the impact of a Minimum Income Scheme (MIS) which has been operating in the Basque Country for more than twenty years. In particular, they test whether the policy delays entry into employment for recipients and question the efficacy of policies aimed at enabling recipients of the MIS to re-enter employment.

UNITED KINGDOM

RAND Europe

Understanding mental health in the research environment

by Susan Guthrie, Catherine A. Lichten, Janna Van Belle, Sarah Ball, Anna Knack and Joanna Hofman [@JoannaBHofman](#)

7 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (94 p.)

The Royal Society and Wellcome Trust are interested in better understanding the mental health needs of researchers in the UK, and exploring what interventions could be used to support them. This reflects the recent focus on mental health among undergraduate students in the UK, and the concern that others in the academic and wider research environment may have mental health needs that have not been as well explored and considered. The study aims to establish what is currently known about the mental health of researchers based on the existing literature.

BREXIT

RAND Europe

What sort of Brexit do the British people want?

by Charlene Rohr, Alexandra Pollitt, David Howarth, Hui Lu and Jonathan Grant

12 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (71 p.)

This study uses discrete choice experiments to explore and quantify how the British public value key dimensions of a future relationship with Europe, including freedom of movement for holidays and working, contributions to the EU, free trade with other countries, access to the EU single market for goods and services and sovereignty.

Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Brexit and the Centre

by Tony Blair

June 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.)

We have over-estimated, as ever, the weakness of Europe. Growth rates are recovering. Politics is stabilising. Yes many clouds remain – from Italian and Spanish banks to popular anger at cuts, low pay and immigration concerns. Europe is not out of the woods. But it thinks it sees a path out of those woods and our poll shows that French and Germans see Europe as a guide not an obstacle. The 27 will basically stick together in defending the rules of the Single Market. But we are all learning, as we proceed, the damage Brexit will do. Europe knows it will be poorer and less powerful without us.

Centre for European Policy Studies

For a 'scrap-it' Brexit – 33 reasons why ... and counting

by Michael Emerson [@Michael1254O](#)

18 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

The vocabulary of comments in the British media is now beginning to go beyond the 'soft', 'hard', 'cliff-edge' and 'no deal' Brexit, to include a 'scrap-it' Brexit. The tide of opinion in England may be turning, as the real implications of Brexit start to become clearer. The whole process has been a long catalogue of political errors since Prime Minister David Cameron decided in 2013 to hold a referendum, and now the real costs are becoming apparent.

European Parliament Think Tank / Erasmus School of Law, Rotterdam / European Research Centre for Economic and Financial Governance

Legal implications of Brexit: Customs Union, internal market acquis for goods and services, consumer protection law, public procurement

by Fabian Amtenbrink, Menelaos Markakis [@M_Markakis](#) and René Repasi [@repasi](#)

August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (109 p.)

This study makes a preliminary assessment of the legal implications of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU on the policy areas relating to the internal market for goods and services, to consumer protection and to the customs union.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Can the UK negotiate a new kind of free trade arrangement?

by John Temple Lang

28 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

This paper considers the possible post-Brexit trading relationship between the UK and EU, and analyses the likelihood of achieving it. The author considers what the UK aim to achieve during the negotiation process and weighs up the possible paths they may choose to take (comparatively analysing each approach). Furthermore, the author argues that the EEA offers the best, and perhaps the only solution for the UK as a whole, for Scotland, and for both parts of Ireland.

Institute for Government

Frictionless trade? What Brexit means for cross-border trade in goods

by Alex Stojanovic [@awstojanovic](#) and Jill Rutter [@jillongovt](#)

17 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.)

A deal on customs is important for reducing post-Brexit trade friction, but it is only half the story. This report says that leaving the EU will disrupt the country's important integrated supply chains in areas like automobile manufacturing - creating friction in cross-border trade in goods.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Brexit impact assessment on the effects of Great Britain's withdrawal from the EU on European foreign and development policy

by Thomas Henökl [@ThomasHenoekl](#)

13 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.) and in [German](#) (13 p.)

Due to the unexpectedly close result in the British general elections on 8 June 2017 and the loss of the Conservative majority, the hard Brexit approach by Prime Minister Theresa May suddenly appears to no longer be set in stone. Whether the British position changes and how the withdrawal ultimately takes shape might have far-reaching consequences for European foreign and development policy, and the potential damage is considerable. This article offers an overview of the thorny issues in the Brexit negotiations and highlights opportunities for mitigating the expected negative effects.

Institut français des relations internationales

The future of British defence policy

by Andrew Dorman

June 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (60 p.)

As the prospect of the UK leaving the EU raises increasing challenges to its international position; the future of British defence policy seems more uncertain than ever. The UK bears the legacy of a solid and reliable defence and security apparatus. However, political and budgetary hesitations have cast doubts on its strategic outlook.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

European defence: how to engage the UK after Brexit?

by Anne Bakker, Margriet Drent [@DrentMargriet](#) and Dick Zandee
July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

This report discusses the implications of Brexit for European defence and the CSDP. Firstly it analyses the UK's contribution to EU defence in general terms, exploring what contributions Great Britain has made to EU missions and operations. Secondly the authors look into the future relationship between the EU and the UK in terms of defence cooperation and question what models of partnership are possible. Finally, this report will discuss how Brexit will affect the UK's defence role in Europe - asking to what extent will Brexit result in a different role for the UK in NATO.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Potential implications of leaving the EU for UK agriculture and the rural environment

by David Baldock [@David Baldock](#), Allan Buckwell [@allan123b](#), Kaley Hart and Anne Maréchal
29 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (134 p.)

Through exploratory scenarios, this report sets out possible directions for agricultural policies and practice after leaving the EU and discusses potential impacts on the rural environment.

Promoting agro-ecological approaches on farmland: lessons from other European countries

by David Mottershead and Anne Maréchal
17 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (73 p.)

High profile political support for agro-ecological approaches for farming, in France and Germany could provide some food for thought for the UK as its governments develop a framework for agriculture policy after Brexit.

VISEGRÁD COUNTRIES

Case - Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (Center for Social and Economic Research)

Mutual learning for reducing tax gaps in V4 countries and Ukraine: final report

by Iakov Frizis and Krzysztof Głowacki
22 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (56 p.)

Due to analogies in modern economic history, the Visegrad countries still share many similarities in their tax systems. Their tax rates are low in comparison to western European countries (with the prime example being the 9% CIT in Hungary, the lowest rate in Europe), which is related to their current level of economic development and a lower share of their governments' expenditures in GDP.

Mutual learning for reducing tax gaps in V4 countries and Ukraine; peer country paper: Poland

by Iakov Frizis, Krzysztof Głowacki and Katarzyna Mirecka

28 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

As becomes apparent from the previous sections, Polish tax law and the framework of tackling tax non-compliance in Poland underwent a significant evolution in previous years. Some of the changes were necessitated by the requirements of EU law (as was the case with many regulations on VAT and excise tax), while other changes were the result of the political will to improve tax collectability (e.g. the reverse VAT charge). Some of the mechanisms that emerged performed well (e.g. the fuel package), some performed less well, while others are yet to be assessed.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Good neighbourliness: the Visegrád countries and Ukraine

by Łukasz Adamski [@LukaszAdamskiPL](#), Dániel Bartha [@bartha_daniel](#), Tamás Boros [@BorosTamas_PS](#), Balázs Jarábik [@BalazsJarabik](#), András Rácz, Ivana Smolenova [@IvanaSmolenova](#) and Ernst Stetter [@ernststetter](#)

31 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (92 p.)

Since the Ukrainian revolution of 2014, the relationship between Ukraine and the EU has emerged as one of the most important unsettled issues for the foreign and neighbourhood policy of the European community. In this complex crisis, four Central European Visegrád states – the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia – found themselves in a special position: on account of their geographic location, they were directly affected by the conflict. As the need for progressive policies and politics in the region is becoming increasingly dire, this publication is aimed at shedding light on a complicated geopolitical picture.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

A neighbour discovered anew. The Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary's relations with Ukraine

by Jakub Groszkowski [@jgosw](#), Tadeusz Iwański and Andrzej Sadecki

8 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.) and in [Polish](#) (35 p.)

The big success in the relationship between the V4 countries and Ukraine has been their booming energy cooperation. However, the pro-Russian gestures made by some leading politicians from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary remain a challenge for relations between Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and Kyiv.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Trends in European terrorism: 1970-2016

by Anthony Cordesman

18 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (57 p.)

This report provides summary statistical data on the trends in western and eastern Europe. It focuses on START and IHS Jane's data, but also includes data from other sources – including the one useful current official source on terrorism that presents declassified official data. This is the annual report on terrorism which is issued by Europol and the EU.

RAND Europe

Exploring the transferability and applicability of gang evaluation methodologies to counter-violent radicalisation

by Matthew Davies, Richard Warnes and Joanna Hofman [@JoannaBHofman](#)

20 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

The report documents the process of conducting a targeted literature review and a comparative analysis between the fields of countering violent extremism (CVE) and gang-desistance literature. It presents the results of this exploratory exercise, highlighting the relative rigor of gang-related evaluations in comparison to CVE evaluations. Building on these findings, the paper discusses some of the pertinent lessons that emerge from the rich research tradition in the field of gangs. To the knowledge of the authors, this is the first attempt to systematically compare gang desistance literature with literature on CVE.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Towards a comprehensive EU protection system for minorities

by Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild, Lina Vosyliūtė [@LinaVosyliute](#) and Petra Bárd [@BardPetra](#)

30 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (182 p.)

This study examines the added value of developing a democratic rule of law and fundamental rights-based approach to the protection of minorities in the EU legal system, from an 'intersectional' viewpoint. It presents the state of play regarding the main challenges characterising the protection of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in a selection of 11 European countries, in light of existing international and regional legal standards. The study puts forward several policy options to address this gap. It suggests specific ways in which a Union Pact for democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, could help to ensure a comprehensive EU approach to minority protection.

The Transatlantic dispute over visas: the need for EU action in the face of US non-reciprocity, moving targets and the harvesting of EU citizens' data

by Marco Stefan

7 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

This paper investigates the multiple policy, legal and inter-institutional ramifications of the dispute arising from the persisting lack of visa reciprocity between the EU and the US. The ever-stringent US requirements for Member States admittance and stay in the Visa Waiver Programme discriminate against European passport holders on the basis of nationality and justify preventive policing through the harvesting of EU citizens' personal data.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Europe's "new" jihad: homegrown, leaderless, virtual

by Thomas Renard

5 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

Recent terrorist attacks in Europe were committed by homegrown radicals, mostly loners with limited ties to the Islamic State. Many observers agree that the jihadi threat is changing, but the nature of these changes is often exaggerated or misconceived. As a result, our capacity to craft effective counter-terrorism policies is hindered, despite their urgent necessity. This brief seeks therefore to better understand the key elements and drivers of the new jihadi threat in Europe, while offering some recommendations.

MIGRATION

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

European public opinion and the EU following the peak of the migration crisis

by Daniel Debomy and Alain Tripier

4 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

This paper provides an overview of opinion on the EU in its various Member States, analysing the results of the European Commission's Eurobarometer surveys, in addition to some aspects based on data from the European Parliament's surveys. It examines in detail attitudes on immigration - which, in 2015, had become the top cause for concern for the EU by far, and an important source of concern for citizens' own countries.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Migration and refugees at the UN. Toward new global compacts and the emergence of an international migration regime

by John Slocum [@JohnSlocum2](#)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

This passage analyses both recent and ongoing progress towards an international migration regime, as exemplified by the September 2016 UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants, the adoption by the General Assembly of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the entry of the International Organization for Migration into the United Nations system, and the parallel processes now underway for developing two new global compacts – one on migration, the other on refugees – which are slated for completion and approval by UN member states in the fall of 2018.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Beyond the agro-ecological and sustainable agricultural intensification debate: is blended sustainability the way forward?

by Jonathan Mockshell and Josey Kamanda

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has come a renewed global interest in ending hunger, achieving food security and preventing natural resource degradation. Despite this renewed interest and increased commitments to invest in agricultural development, there is an ongoing debate over the pathways to sustainability. The debate centres on sustainable agricultural intensification (SAI) and agro-ecological intensification (AEI) pathways to agricultural sustainability. This study examines the debate over AEI and SAI.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal

Making Europe a data economy: a new framework for free movement of data in the digital age

by Paul Hofheinz [@PaulHofheinz](#) and David Osimo [@osimod](#)

13 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.)

This paper analyses an array of state-of-the-art proposals for facilitating data flows and proposes a three-point roadmap for improving the "free movement of data" in Europe, including: strengthening European-level cyber security, cracking down on unjustified data localisation; and developing more open and transparent policies for data sharing around a new concept of "co-ownership".

MTA Közgazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Kutatóközpont - Világgazdasági Intézet (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies HAS - Institute of World Economics)

Different interpretations of the automotive industry and its role in three semi-peripheral regions of the EU

by Gábor Túry

28 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

Túry investigates the role of the automotive industry in the Baltic, Visegrád and Iberian region. In the analysis of each country, the study discusses the importance of the automotive industry in the national economy and the role of individual countries in the global trade. Based on the literature there are different approaches regarding the activities belonging to the automotive industry. This study defines the automotive spill overs on the basis of the NACE nomenclature to show how these activities contribute to employment, production and value added in the examined countries.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

RAND Europe

Digital currency and the future of transacting

by Katherine Stewart, Salil Gunashekar and Catriona Manville

30 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The ability of digital platforms to connect people offering goods and services with potential recipients goes beyond financial exchange and commerce; recent years have also seen the emergence of new platforms for non-monetary exchange and bartering. These include platforms for voluntary donation of goods, such as Freecycle; platforms to exchange services, such as the International Community Exchange System, and new platforms to connect willing volunteers with organizations in need, including online or remote volunteering and micro volunteering (such as the UN Online Volunteers site, hosted by the United Nations).

Centre for European Policy Studies

Improving cooperation among EU Member States in handling electricity crises: lessons for the regulation on risk-preparedness

by Arndt Hassel [@ArndtHassel](#), Cristian Stroia [@Cristian_Stroia](#), Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#), Jaap Jansen [@JaapJansen](#) and Arno Behrens

4 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

As part of the "Clean Energy for All Europeans" package, the European Commission has proposed a regulation on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector that aims to improve cooperation among Member States in preventing, preparing for and managing electricity crises. To reap the benefits of improved cooperation compared with the current diverging national approaches, the proposal foresees, national risk-preparedness plans, a number of principles for crisis management and ex post crisis evaluation. This policy insight analyses the proposal and confronts it with a case study about a recent crisis in south east Europe.

Terra nova

Accélérer la décarbonation: vers un prix minimum du CO2 pour l'électricité en Europe de l'Ouest

by Alain Grandjean [@alaingrandjean](#), Sébastien Timsit, Jeannou Durtol, Antoine Guillou [@antoineguillou](#), Émilie Alberola [@emilie_alberola](#) and Charlotte Vailles

29 August 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (31 p.)

The aim of this paper is to present a measure based on a minimum CO2 price for the electricity sector in several countries that would volunteer - France and Germany in the first place - to decarbonise the European electricity production.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The EU competition investigation into Gazprom's sales to central and eastern Europe: a detailed analysis of the commitments and the way forward

by Jonathan Stern and Katja Yafimava [@katyafimava](#)

3 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.)

EU competition authorities initiated an investigation into Gazprom's supply and pricing of gas in central and eastern European Member States on the grounds that the company might have:

hindered the free flow of gas, prevented the diversification of gas supply, and imposed unfair prices on its customers by linking the price of gas to oil prices. At the end of 2016, a set of commitments was offered by Gazprom which, after further negotiations in March 2017, satisfied DG COMP that it would address the problems which it had identified. This study investigates the possible outcomes from this and considers options should Member States attempt to derail the settlement.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

Impact of digitalisation and the on-demand economy on labour markets and the consequences for employment and industrial relations

by Willem Pieter De Groen, Karolien Lenaerts, Romain Bosc [@Romabosc](#) and Félix Paquier

28 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (76 p.)

This study examines the impact of digitalisation and the on-demand economy on employment and industrial relations in both traditional businesses and industries as well as new forms of work in the on-demand economy. It focuses on job creation and destruction, interaction with customers and workers/employees, labour relations in terms of both the organisation of work and industrial relations as well as government responses, particularly in the area of labour conditions, taxation and social security. The study emphasises aspects relevant to employers.

The platform economy and industrial relations: applying the old framework to the new reality

by Zachary Kilhoffer, Karolien Lenaerts and Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#)

7 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (53 p.)

This paper investigates the intersection of the platform economy, industrial relations and social dialogue. It provides strong evidence that workers in the platform economy are organising into new employee associations (unions) and are also being brought into existing employee associations. The authors conclude firstly that no overarching framework exists for governing or facilitating social dialogue between the parties involved in the platform economy, and secondly, even if the existing framework is applied to parties in the platform economy, it offers a poor fit due to differences between platform workers and employees, and platforms and employers.

Government responses to the platform economy: where do we stand?

by Karolien Lenaerts, Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#) and Zachary Kilhoffer

27 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

The introduction of the platform economy in Europe has sparked debate on the challenges it raises for workers, companies, social partners, governments and other stakeholders, and how these challenges can be addressed. This paper assesses government responses to the platform economy in seven EU countries. It shows that, owing to the lack of a specific framework governing the platform economy, countries generally attempt to apply existing legislation, regulations and policies to the new challenges that the platform economy brings. This strategy is not necessarily successful. The status of platform workers, for example, remains unclear in most Member States.

RAND Europe

Guide to the resilience dividend valuation model

by Craig A. Bond, Aaron Strong, Nicholas Burger and Sarah Weiland

16 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.)

Policymakers, program practitioners, and investors who want to achieve the greatest possible benefits from the resilience projects that they support lack effective tools to estimate the net benefits those projects provide relative to alternatives. The RAND Corporation and the Rockefeller Foundation formed a partnership to develop a modeling framework that can be used in a decision analysis environment, providing a structured way to think about the benefits and costs of projects developed with a resilience lens.

ENVIRONMENT

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Engaged in the democratic, social and ecological future of Europe: how to set a future PES coherent programme to address pollution and climate change?

by Diana A. Hanry-Knop

10 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (65 p.)

The purpose of this paper is to argue that the environmental and climate change issues represents one of the most suitable policy areas, where the Social Democratic members of the PES will be able to build a more coherent progressive programme. Despite some differences that are existing in the response proposed by European Social Democratic parties to tackle climate change (e. g. the consensus in the abandonment of nuclear energy), there are common orientations in their national programmes. Concrete recommendations on how to build a more coherent progressive programme related to climate change at the European level are presented in the end of this paper.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Migration Policy Institute

Quality for whom? Supporting culturally and linguistically diverse children and workers in early childhood quality rating and improvement systems

by Julie Sugarman and Maki Park [@makisnack](#)

August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

This report examines how diverse providers access Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) and explores the processes built around them. Furthermore, the authors question what indicators can be used to better capture program elements that are valuable to immigrant and refugee families. Drawing on interviews with practitioners and examples of best practice from across the country, this article offers state decision-makers a range of strategies that can be used to ensure QRIS are accessible, fair, and more accurately capture and value program elements needed to effectively serve culturally and linguistically diverse children and families.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Wissenschaftsfreiheit - Argumente für mehr Rücksicht auf ein gefährdetes Grundrecht

by Norbert Arnold, Ralf Bartenschlager, Christian Beilmann, Gregor Bucher, Uwe Cantner, Klaus Dicke, Dietmar Ertmann, Peter Frankenberg, Volker Haug, Michael Klein, Josef Lange, Cornelis Menke, Volker Meyer-Guckel, Hans Müller-Steinhagen, Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, Ernst Th. Rietschel, Hans Hilger Ropers, Ulrich Rüdiger and Godehard Ruppert

10 August 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (26 p.)

Science is a high asset, which is not respected in many countries. In Germany it is subject to the protection of the Basic Law. Without scientific freedom, there is no good scientific performance and no innovation. The scientific network of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation discusses the potential hazards and solutions with ten theses.

Jugendarbeitslosigkeit in Europa - Eine europäische Verantwortung

by Thomas Köster

25 July 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (12 p.)

Youth unemployment in the EU, particularly in southern Europe, remains at a high level. The unemployment rate of young people between the ages of 16 and 25 is about twice as high as the overall unemployment rate. The author questions why professional gaps arise in Germany, while young people in the south of Europe are without prospects? The free movement of workers (one of the fundamental freedoms of the internal market) should not only be a European's right, but should become a reality.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

Building capacity for the EU global strategy

by Tony Lawrence, Henrik Praks [@HenrikPraks](#) and Pauli Järvenpää

June 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.) and to the [report](#) (37 p.)

The policy paper discusses some of the issues related to further building the EU's defence dimension, with a focus on the generation and sustainment of the political will necessary for collaborative military capability development. The report provides more background and argument to support the ideas set out in the policy paper.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

France and Germany: spearheading a European security and defence union?

by Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#) and Marie Walter-Franke [@MWalterFranke](#)

19 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

Despite a joint vision of France and Germany on a European Security and Defence Union, only cautious steps have been taken so far. This paper advocates incremental steps towards a more ambitious European Security and Defence Union.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

The multi-speed Baltic States. Reinforcing the defence capabilities of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia

by Piotr Szymański

16 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.) and in [Polish](#) (22 p.)

The Baltic states are often viewed by the west and Russia as a single region. However, the different economic and demographic potentials, strategic cultures and geographic location result in differences in their defence solutions. Estonia is devoted to a conscript-based army with a significant reserve force, Latvia is developing professional army with a small reserve, and Lithuania has decided to combine the two models.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Europe's options on the sidelines of the North Korea crisis

by Janka Oertel [@oertel_janka](#)

28 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

This article discusses recent developments in the North Korean nuclear crisis, and the potential damages an armed conflict would have on European security, trade and prosperity. The author makes multiple suggestions on how Europe could contribute to the international handling of North Korea.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Adapting NATO's conventional force posture in the Nordic-Baltic region

by Artur Kacprzyk [@ArturKacprzyk](#) and Karsten Friis [@KaFriis](#)

August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

The security of NATO members in the Nordic-Baltic region is interconnected by possible geographical escalation, the importance of securing the north Atlantic for US reinforcement of Europe, and the role of cooperation with NATO partners Sweden and Finland. Russia's hostile actions against its neighbours, aggressive stance towards the west, and hardening of military presence on NATO's flanks have led to concern from NATO members in the area. Should Russia be successful, this would radically reshape the Euro-Atlantic security landscape. However, NATO is in a good position for coherent adaptation in the Nordic-Baltic region.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Projecting stability in NATO's southern neighbourhood

by Margherita Bianchi [@marghebianchi](#), Guillaume Lasconjarias and Alessandro Marrone [@Alessandro_Ma](#)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.) and in [Italian](#) (21 p.)

The Arab Spring led to a collapse of order in the Mediterranean, negatively affecting the balance between NATO's internal and external security. Instability in NATO's southern neighbourhood is linked to the terrorist threat and the migration crisis affecting Europe. NATO is active in the region: capacity-building in Jordan and Tunisia, the security operation Sea Guardian in the Mediterranean Sea, and the creation of a hub to coordinate intelligence, counter terrorism and defence capacity building activities. NATO should address two linked instability factors: regional powers which use force to protect their interests, and the lack of state control in certain countries because of civil war.

Pew Research Center

Globally, people point to ISIS and climate change as leading security threats - Concern about cyberattacks, world economy also widespread

by Jacob Poushter [@japoushter](#) and Dorothy Manevich

1 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

People around the globe identify ISIS and climate change as the leading threats to national security, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. The survey asked about eight possible threats. While the level and focus of concern varies by region and country, ISIS and climate change clearly emerge as the most frequently cited security risks across the 38 countries polled.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Royal United Services Institute

Transatlantic (mis)alignment: challenges to US-EU sanctions design and implementation

by Tom Keatinge [@keatingetom](#), Emil Dall [@EmilDall](#), Aniseh Bassiri Tabrizi and Sarah Lain [@sarahlain12](#)

7 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (50 p.)

This paper argues that despite recent coordination on sanctions against Russia and Iran, there is still a misalignment over how the US and the EU approaches sanctions. The different policymaking

processes on both sides of the Atlantic impact the design, implementation and eventual lifting of sanctions regimes. The paper also highlights the crucial role that the private sector plays in the implementation of sanctions.

TRADE

European Policy Centre

The EU and emerging market economies - Transformations and new challenges

by Juliane Schmidt [@juleschmidt90](#)

14 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

The EU and emerging market economies are important players on the world stage, facing many challenges and transformations in a rapidly changing world. This article looks at the political, economic, and environmental interests of the EU and emerging market economies and considers the future of their cooperation in global governance. It focuses on four key areas of multilateralism: climate change, trade, international financial institutions, and global governance in the security realm.

CEPII - Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales

Trade and macro-economic issues for international co-ordination in tense times

by Anne-Laure Delatte [@aldelatte](#) and Sébastien Jean

June 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

This brief discusses what useful form international economic co-ordination might take, notwithstanding the tense climate witnessed in recent months. On international trade, it argues that wide-ranging negotiations or trade liberalizations would be pointless under present circumstances. Instead, efforts should focus on preventing protectionism and retaliation, in a context where the resilience of existing institutions should not be overstated. Updating China's status is another pressing question which should be tackled seriously, and will require political negotiations. Addressing the political concerns about globalization should be another priority.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Post-Cotonou, the modernisation of the ACP partnership

by Charles de Marcilly [@Charles2M](#)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [French](#) (8 p.)

The author aims to provide food for thought regarding the modernization of the ACP partnership. Relations between the EU and its 28 Member States and 79 other states including 48 from Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific (ACP) will be celebrating their 45th anniversary in 2020. That year will also mark the expiry date of the Cotonou Agreement of 2000. This framework was the cornerstone of cooperation and dialogue regarding politics, economy, trade and development aid. Discussions have been launched by all parties to identify the possible content and the shape of future relations in a context in which requirements are mutual.

DEVELOPMENT

Transparency International

Collective commitment to enhance accountability and transparency in emergencies: synthesis report

by Adele Harmer and François Grünewald

31 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (55 p.)

The objective of this study was to produce an evidence base concerning the risks of aid integrity in relation to the implementation of humanitarian assistance within four complex operational settings: Afghanistan, the response to Ebola in Guinea, southern Somalia, and operations to assist Syrian refugees in Lebanon. This report focuses on the supply chain and service delivery within key sectors, including food, shelter, health and protection by consulting with international and local aid organisations, donor governments, government actors and private sector representatives.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Türkische Jugend interessiert sich kaum für Politik - Umfrage

17 July 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (82 p.)

A clear majority of Turkish youths are hardly interested in the social and political developments of their own country. These are the findings of a youth study which was commissioned by the local office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Turkey.

Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Ευρωπαϊκής και Εξωτερικής Πολιτικής (Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy)

How the quality of democracy deteriorates: populism and the backsliding of democracy in three west Balkan countries

by Dimitri A. Sotiropoulos

10 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (48 p.)

This paper's main question is how and through what mechanisms the deterioration of quality of democracy takes place. A tentative answer is the following: lingering state socialist legacies, the combination of strong governments with fragile parliamentary opposition, and weak civil society, result in the backsliding of democracy.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

First on the front lines - The role of volunteers in countering Russia's military aggression against Ukraine

by Anna Bulakh [@Bulakh Anna](#), Grigori Senkiv and Dmitri Teperik

August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (47 p.)

The report examines the impact of the paramilitary groups that became known as "volunteer battalions" in Ukraine.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

The aftermath of the crisis - An overhaul of Ukraine's banking sector

by Rafał Sadowski

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.) and in [Polish](#) (31 p.)

In 2014–2016, Ukraine's banking sector was affected by what has proven to be the most serious crisis in its modern history. Almost half of the banks went bankrupt and the losses incurred by the state and banking sector clients were in excess of US\$ 20 billion. With considerable support and under major pressure from the west, Ukraine's government has managed to stabilize the situation in the sector. Despite tangible improvement, it is too early to determine whether the reform programme has been successfully implemented and if the improvement is sustainable. The crisis has made it necessary for major changes to be implemented in the functioning and structure of the banking sector.

The best army Ukraine has ever had. Changes in Ukraine's armed forces since the Russian aggression

by Andrzej Wilk

7 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.) and in [Polish](#) (44 p.)

The annexation of Crimea by Russia and the first weeks of the war in the Donbas revealed what Ukraine's armed forces were in reality. The war in the Donbas shaped the Ukrainian army. It also forced the administration of the Ukrainian ministry of defense and the government to adapt the structure to the real operational needs and to incur the costs of preventing a collapse in the area of training and equipment, at least to the level which makes it possible to engage in a war on a level playing field with the pro-Russian separatists.

Expert-Grup

Eficiența și transparența Fondului Național pentru Dezvoltare Regională

by Iurie Morcoțilo and Ion Gumene

9 August 2017

Link to the article in [Romanian](#) (48 p.)

The sustainable economic growth of an economy cannot be achieved without a balanced regional development. In Moldova, this topic is sensitive insofar as there are strong discrepancies between the urban and rural areas.

The Financial Monitor #5: an analysis of main reforms in the financial sector of Moldova

by Eugen Ghiletschi

25 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

On 2 June 2017, the Parliament of Moldova adopted in the first reading an act that will undoubtedly have a special impact on the domestic banking sector – the draft Law on bank activity. The new law is derived from the commitments Moldova has taken under the EU Association Agreement and is to replace the Law on financial institutions approved as early as 1995 which suffered tens of amendments over time. The Law on bank activity aims to perfect the legislative activity framework for banks considering the best international standards and practices.

2 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (110 p.)

In September 2015, the Republic of Moldova, along with other 192 members of the UN, committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, by adopting the Declaration of the Summit on Sustainable Development, held in NYC. However, according to this study, the national policy agenda is only partially aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and one third of SDGs targets are not included in any of the national policy papers.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Centre for European Policy Studies

EU diplomacy and the Iran nuclear deal: staying power?

by Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#) and Astrid Viaud

14 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

The Iran nuclear deal is a diplomatic success of EU foreign policy. This analysis of the EU's tasks as coordinator of the Joint Commission overseeing the agreement's implementation evaluates the EU's performance and if the benefits it derives from lifted nuclear-related sanctions and the opened Iranian market risk undermining its role as honest broker. The EU is accepted in the Joint Commission as *primus inter pares* by Germany, Iran and the Security Council's five permanent members. How the EU will manage to keep the US in the agreement determines the deal's future and colours the EU's and its High Representative's legacy as a global diplomatic actor.

Bruegel

Towards EU-MENA shared prosperity

by Abdelhak Bassou [@Jahilounya3rif](#), Mario Filadoro, Larabi Jaidi, Marion Jansen, Yassine Msadfa and Simone Tagliapietra [@TagliapietraBxl](#)

August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (98 p.)

The MENA region is a cornerstone of the global energy architecture, with half of the world's oil and gas reserves. This architecture currently undergoes a transformation, prompted by decarbonisation policies and technological developments. The Paris Agreement was a step forward in global efforts against global warming. Technological advancement increases the cost-competitiveness of low-carbon technologies like solar and wind power, power storage technologies and electric vehicles which reshapes the global energy system. This raises a question: will MENA oil-exporting countries prosper with global decarbonisation?

Istituto Affari Internazionali

How can renewable energy help contribute to the development of the MENA countries?

by Emanuela Menichetti and Abdelghani El Gharras

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

Many considerations contribute in advancing renewable energy technologies in the MENA region: Sharp cost reduction, increasing energy demand and energy security concerns, socio-economic benefits and environmental issues. It could benefit from wide-scale renewable energy use. The region currently has a minor share of total global renewable electricity capacity. Several targets are set by MENA countries for developing renewable energy technologies but the implementation

speed has been slow. This analysis shows real impact can be gained if the renewable energy national plans and objectives were to be achieved in a timely manner.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Harnessing social safety in a context of changing social contracts: compensation schemes and subsidy reforms in the GCC

by Tom Moerenhout

11 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

Due to low oil prices in international markets and the resulting fiscal stress, GCC countries are reforming energy prices. Some reforms are structural, intended to last beyond the low-oil-price period. But most GCC countries have not used measures to mitigate the negative impacts on households from the reforms. While the social contract allowed the initial price increases from a very low base, new pricing reforms should be accompanied by new welfare methods to compensate for impact of higher energy prices on households. This paper analyses the complex nature of the development of new social safety mechanisms.

The political economy of energy subsidies in Egypt and Tunisia: the untold story

by Ferdinand Eibl [@ferdinandeibl](#)

10 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

Energy subsidies can be socially inequitable and fiscally draining for MENA economies: Resource-scarce, labour-abundant countries like Tunisia and Egypt can't rely on resource rents to finance them. Struggling to reform subsidies, reforms are characterised by rollbacks of previous ones. Dominant explanations underline fear of popular unrest as a main factor in decelerating or reversing reform; this paper focuses on politically connected businessmen (PCBs). Egyptian PCBs benefit more from the subsidies and hold them more important compared to Tunisian PCBs. This shows the importance of taking into account not just households when analysing subsidy reforms.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

The geographic trajectory of conflict and militancy in Tunisia

by Anouar Boukhars [@aboukhars01](#)

20 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

More than six years after the revolution that ousted former president Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia's border regions remain hotbeds of social discontent and agitation. Aggrieved youth increasingly express their anger through fiery protests, street violence, and in some cases violent extremism. In response to this ongoing social unrest and terrorism, the Tunisian government has developed hardline security policies, whose effects often exacerbate social tensions, political violence, and militancy. Breaking this vicious cycle requires Tunisia's government to rethink its approach to the border regions.

The summer of our discontent: sects and citizens in Lebanon and Iraq

by Maha Yahya [@mahamyahya](#)

30 June 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

Lebanon's and Iraq's political systems are based on sectarian and ethnic power-sharing. In summer 2015, both countries faced popular protests demanding better governance. These protests began over poor service provision but escalated into opposition to the countries' overarching power-sharing systems. These demonstrations were framed as non-sectarian, civic

responses to deteriorating conditions and corrupt leadership. While protestors raised hopes that change was possible, their curtailment by the sectarian leadership underlined the challenges of political transformation in divided societies.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

On the emergence of an Arab democracy - Social divides and political compromises in Tunisia

by Edmund Ratka

13 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.) and in [German](#) (14 p.)

Hopes for a life in freedom and dignity, which had materialised in the "Arab Spring", have long since been shattered in many places. Tunisia is the only country that has succeeded in undergoing democratic change since 2011. Social divides have been dealt with in a spirit of dialogue and consensus. In order to embed democracy and the rule of law with lasting effect, however, the gap between elites and citizens as well as the regional imbalances of power and development need to be overcome.

Financial crisis in Lebanon

by Toufic Gaspard

30 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

Lebanon is living in financial crisis conditions, which may turn into a full-fledged crisis affecting the Lebanese Lira's exchange rate and the banking sector unless appropriate and specific actions are soon implemented by the authorities.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Iraq after the fall of ISIS: the struggle for the state

by Renad Mansour [@renadmansour](#)

28 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

The defeat of ISIS's in Iraq presents a renewed opportunity to assert national cohesion and win citizens' confidence in government institutions. Although Iraqis are now more supportive of state institutions, they are also concerned that the root causes that led to the rise of ISIS have not been adequately addressed. As such, many are placing a new emphasis not only on defeating ISIS, but also on countering corruption through effective state-building and better governance.

RAND Europe

Making victory count after defeating ISIS stabilization challenges in Mosul and beyond

by Shelly Culbertson and Linda Robinson

24 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (99 p.)

Iraq is wealthy in human capacity, natural resources, and world heritage. Iraqis have demonstrated resolve and resourcefulness in combatting ISIS and coordinating with the Coalition and the international aid community. After the recent decades of instability, many Iraqis are willing to take steps to move their country onward. Yet, they cannot achieve this alone. Stability in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East depends on active leadership and support from others. In this report the authors provide steps that can create a foundation for and momentum toward these goals. But without fast progress Iraq risks devolving once again into instability.

AFRICA

OCP Policy Center

African Union: what are the possible options for strategic autonomy?

by Abdelkhalek El Bikam, Oumar Kourouma and Zitha Afang Ndong

22 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and [French](#) (11 p.)

The African Union (AU) is the main continental institution of Africa. The AU is increasingly emerging as the continent's platform with foreign partners, and continues to face problems of dependence, governance and leadership. This brief intends to question the AU's strategic autonomy and suggest concrete ways and means to achieve it.

Institut français des relations internationales

France and Japan in Africa: a promising partnership

by Céline Pajon [@CelinePajon](#)

31 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

If some African countries are achieving economic growth, many are still struggling with a lack of economic and social infrastructure, latent governance issues and often complex and risky security environments. Japan and European countries, especially France, are making efforts to increase their development assistance, but also private investments and security cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa. As two important players on the African continent, Japan and France are also looking to enhance their bilateral cooperation on the field. This article draws comparisons between both states' objectives and motivations behind increasing development assistance.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Young continent, old rulers - What does the future hold for democracy in Africa?

by Mathias Kamp

13 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.) and in [German](#) (16 p.)

The African 2016 "super election year" made both positive and negative headlines and demonstrated the heterogeneous paths the development of democracy is taking in Africa. Bearing in mind that many elections lacked democratic quality, and given that authoritarian tendencies are on the rise in numerous countries, one cannot speak of progress on the whole. The future development of African democracy will depend on various external and internal factors, which, while entailing certain risks to stability, will ultimately provide opportunities to provide new democratic incentives.

Ominous alliances - On the correlation between weak statehood, international cocaine trading and Islamist terrorism in West Africa

by Isabella Hermann

13 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.) and in [German](#) (11 p.)

The African continent is increasingly in the spotlight of Germany's foreign and security policy, not purely due to the refugee and migration crisis. Weak states in West Africa in particular are proving to be a security problem in that they offer an almost ideal breeding ground for both organised crime and Islamist terrorism.

Overseas Development Institute

Zimbabwe: a roadmap for economic transformation

by Judith Tyson [@judith_odi](#)

7 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

Zimbabwe has suffered from economic decline. There have been multiple acute crises and a deep structural regression in its economy. This has included de-industrialisation and declining productivity in agriculture. Ideally, macroeconomic reforms could reverse this decline, but many commentators see this as unrealistic without significant political change. This paper argues that options are open to drive transformation even in the current political landscape. A focus on a single sector with high potential and led by a single reformist agent within government could kick-start change.

ASIA-OCEANIA

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Small fields, big expectations: can India's discovered small field rounds deliver?

by Anupama Sen

17 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

In 2016 the Indian government launched a bidding round for Discovered Small and Marginal Fields (DSF) to attract investment into the development of oil and gas discoveries. The DSF round was significant: it was India's first bidding round for acreage in six years (during which upstream activity has been in decline)- It was intended as a preamble to the country's new open acreage licensing system, in which the upstream fiscal regime has been fundamentally changed from a profit-sharing contract to a revenue-sharing contract. This paper asks what significance of the DSF round within India's wider policy on energy is, and if the outcome of the first DSF round has been successful.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Fostering democracy and stability in Timor-Leste after the 2006 crisis - On the benefits of coordinated and cooperative forms of support

by Karina Mross

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (62 p.)

Aiming to gain deeper knowledge of the impact that external engagement can have in fragile contexts, this paper analyses international support given to foster stability and democracy in Timor-Leste. Two main questions guided the research. First, have international actors contributed to the consolidation of peace and democracy in Timor-Leste? Second, which factors explain successful support, and which ones explain failure?

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

European Parliament Think Tank / Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

The EU-Latin American strategic partnership: state of play and ways forward

by Gustavo Müller, Jan Wouters [@JMFWouters](#), Jean-Christophe Defraigne, Sebastian Santander and Kolja Raube [@KoljaRaube](#)

30 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

The study explores opportunities for advancing the EU-Latin American strategic partnership by looking at social, economic and political trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, and recent developments in the EU's relation with the region. It argues that the EU is well positioned to play a more active role in Latin America by strengthening existing institutional links. The study concludes with recommendations for advancing the EU's engagement and cooperation with individual Latin American countries and with the region as a whole.

CHINA

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Chinese futures: horizon 2025

by Eva Pejsova [@EPejsova](#) (ed.)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (106 p.)

This report seeks to decipher what kind of global actor we can expect China to be, given its growing international profile and ambitions. What do current trends indicate regarding the direction of its future foreign and security policy in Asia and beyond? And how can Europe engage with its Chinese partner while securing its own position and interests?

Bruegel

The challenge of China's rise as a science and technology powerhouse

by Reinhilde Veugelers [@R_Veugelers](#)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

China is building up its global competitiveness in knowledge-intensive sectors and its ambition to be a global leader in science and innovation by 2050 seems within reach. Currently China is outperforming the EU in terms of expenditure on research and development as a share of its GDP, and already produces about the same number of scientific publications, however its growth model for science still involves sending out its increasingly better locally-trained scholars to the best institutes in the world and reaping the benefits when they return in the later stages of their careers, after they have fully developed their capabilities and built their networks.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Should China join the GPEDC? The prospects for China and the global partnership for effective development co-operation

by Xiaoyun Li

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC) is the 21st-century epitome of partnership in a polycentric world regarding international development cooperation. This

paper studies the debate on the role of the GPEDC and reviews the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)-based development cooperation (in which the GPEDC is embedded) from a non-DAC member perspective. It argues that the GPEDC is considered just another form of the DAC's transformation. That is why emerging powers are skeptical: they are not a part of it; and hence reluctant to join it, or are even inclined to reject it.

RUSSIA

European Council on Foreign Relations

Fellow travellers: Russia, anti-westernism and Europe's political parties

by Gustav Gressel [@GresselGustav](#)

31 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This article maps out which political parties in EU Member States that sympathise with pro-western or anti-western ideas, and how these factors relate to Russia. It suggest measures to be taken in order to protect the liberal, democratic order of the west.

RAND Europe

Russian strategy in the Middle East

by James Sladden, Becca Wasser, Ben Connable and Sarah Grand-Clement

7 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

Russia uses the Middle East to build a great power-image. With military modernization since the war with Georgia, Russia uses opportunities in Syria with western policy's perceived confusion as backdrop. Russia has in a short time achieved more than in the previous decade. But its gains can disappear rapidly. Russia cannot determine outcomes in the Middle East. Local actors can constrain or enable Russia. The most visible elements of Russian strategy (diplomatic relations or its interventionist trend) will be superseded by economic, energy, and arms deals that cement Russian involvement, generate real returns, and shape Russia's and regional actors' relations.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

A region with special needs. The Russian Far East in Moscow's policy

by Szymon Kardaś [@szymonkardas](#)

4 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (50 p.) and in [Polish](#) (51 p.)

In the 1990s Russia's Far East was not an important region in the government's policy, until Putin declared it strategically significant. But Moscow has been unable to generate the region's development; partly due to systemic problems in Russia and lack of a consistent concept of economic development and ineffective governance system, and partly of purely local barriers: staffing problems, the decentralised energy system and limited foreign investors. It appears that political reintegration with the centre of the federation (tighter control from Moscow) and the status as raw material base for Asian countries, westcurrently is the region's maximum development potential.

Pew Research Center

Publics worldwide unfavorable toward Putin, Russia but few see Russian power and influence as a major threat

by Margaret Vice

16 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

Around the world, few people trust Russian President Vladimir Putin to do the right thing when it comes to international affairs. A global median of roughly one-in-four (26%) say they have confidence in the Russian leader. Doubts about Putin's handling of foreign policy, however, do not necessarily coincide with perceptions of Russia as a security risk. Across 37 countries, a median of 31% describe Russia's power and influence as a major threat to their country – identical to the median percentage who say the same about China, and similar to the median share (35%) that sees America's power and influence as a large threat.

Transatlantic Academy / German Marshall Fund of the United States

The militarization of Russian policy

by James Sherr

22 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.)

This report analyses Russia's political-military integration over the past ten years. The author argues that Russia's strategic purpose is to alter political rather than geographical borders in Europe, and that the west needs to counter this in ways which can convince Russia that force no longer is a feasible solution to political problems.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Managing unpredictability - Transatlantic relations in the Trump era

by Mika Aaltola [@MikaAaltola](#) and Bart Gaens (eds.)

28 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (166 p.)

The initial stages of President Donald Trump's administration are marked by an apparent shift in US foreign policy, including in its transatlantic relations. For many, the advent of the Trump era with its perceived inclination towards hard power, national self-interest, protectionism and transactionalism necessitates a fundamental rethink of the US's global role, its relations with Europe and, indeed, the rule-based international order. The aim in this report is to map out the main contours of the ongoing recalibration of transatlantic relations, with Nordic-Baltic security as the key frame of reference and case in point of the ongoing changes.

Migration Policy Institute

The education and work profiles of the DACA population

by Randy Capps, Michael Fix and Jie Zong

August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided work authorization and a two-year reprieve from deportation to nearly 800.000 unauthorized immigrants who came to the US as children. This analysis compares educational and labour force characteristics of young adults eligible for DACA with the US population and unauthorized immigrants ineligible for DACA in

the 15-32 age bracket. As the future of DACA is debated, the stakes are significant. If DACA is terminated, most DACA-eligible workers in medium- and high-skilled jobs will be unable to continue, while those enrolled in higher education may be unable to complete their degrees.

Migration Policy Institute

Protecting the DREAM: the potential impact of different legislative scenarios for unauthorized youth

by Jeanne Batalova, Ariel G. Ruiz Soto and Michelle Mittelstadt [@MittelWorld](#)

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

Congressional efforts to legalize unauthorized immigrants who were brought to the US as children have been pending in Congress since 2001, with the DREAM Act garnering notable bipartisan support over the years. As the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has provided temporary relief from deportation to nearly 800.000 DREAMers, faces a deeply uncertain future, there may be new momentum - and pressure - on Congress to act to grant legal status to a population viewed sympathetically by many on both sides of the political aisle.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Trump's national security strategy: a new brand of mercantilism?

by Salman Ahmed and Alexander Bick [@Alexander_Bick](#)

17 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

The sixteen national security strategies issued by presidents Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama reaffirmed US leadership of a liberal international order, even as they acknowledged it enabled the rise of others and eroded US economic dominance. President Donald Trump may decide that is no longer tenable. His forthcoming national security strategy will be closely scrutinized to understand what "America First" means for the US role in the world and whether it represents a shift toward a narrower, neo-mercantile approach.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Trump... und wie ihn die Welt sieht - Reaktionen aus den Weltregionen zum 45. Präsidenten der USA

by Thomas Birringer, Rabea Brauer, Lars Hänsel, Andrea Ellen Ostheimer, Frank Priess [@FrankPriess1](#) and Markus Rosenberger

17 August 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (21 p.)

In the election campaign, Donald Trump announced a break with the actions of his predecessors in many policy areas. What exactly "America First" means for the American foreign policy is, however, open a half year after his office entrance. To this day, his presidency is filled with question marks and unpredictable. This paper provides background information about the global perceptions of the new US political direction under President Trump. In addition, it elaborates explanatory patterns for Trumps election victory and shows possible implications for Europe.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Central Asia, Russia, and China: U.S. policy at Eurasia's core

by Michał Romanowski

25 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

Central Asia offers economic and political opportunities with its natural resources and geographic position. Russia, China, and the US all look at the region in their national self-interest. Moscow strives for security leverage over the region. Beijing's focus is trade and energy. Washington under Trump is rethinking its policy; US strategists do not have a clear approach to the region. The author argues it is crucial Washington maintains a long-term commitment in the region so it does not cede this arena to Russia and China.

Pew Research Center

Globally, more name U.S. than China as world's leading economic power but balance shifts in eyes of some key U.S. trading partners and allies

by Richard Wike [@RichardWike](#), Jacob Poushter [@japoushter](#), Laura Silver [@lauraruthsilver](#) and Caldwell Bishop

13 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

The past decade has witnessed significant changes in the global economy as many nations around the world have struggled with the Great Recession and its aftereffects. While the US and other relatively wealthy western nations have slowly bounced back from the crisis, economic growth rates have been low compared with those of China, India and other emerging economies. Still, the prevailing view among publics around the world is that the US is the top global economic power.

RAND Europe

Alternative options for U.S. policy toward the international order

by Michael J. Mazarr, Miranda Priebe, Andrew Radin and Astrid Cevallos

15 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (131 p.)

In 2017, the US reaffirmed international order and strengthened that order's universally shared institutions. It reaffirmed existing components like the UN and boosted financial contributions to UN peacekeeping and the International Atomic Energy Agency. After the stagnation on TPP and TTIP, the US proposed new WTO negotiations on proposals to be integrated into a global agreement. At the same time, the US endorsed a more shared order. It reversed its position on China's AIIB, offered to join and suggested its allies do likewise, and invited Russia back to the G-8, in response to Moscow's agreement to a phased withdrawal from eastern Ukraine.

SPECIAL FOCUS - FAKE NEWS AND THE ROLE IT PLAYS IN THE POLITICAL MEDIA LANDSCAPE

RAND Europe

Behind the curtain. The illicit trade of firearms, explosives and ammunition on the dark web

by Giacomo Persi Paoli, Judith Aldridge [@JudithAAldridge](#), Nathan Ryan and Richard Warnes
19 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (148 p.)

There is an ongoing debate over the extent to which online black markets on the so-called 'dark web' facilitate arms trafficking. Details have emerged in the media following the 2016 Munich shooting which link the weapons used by the attackers to vendors on dark web marketplaces. Some media reports have also linked the November 2015 Paris terrorist attacks to these platforms. While these reports appear to have raised concerns about the role of such dark web markets in arms trade, evidence on the subject is anecdotal, based on secondary data. This report aims to fill the current gap in knowledge by using primary data to analyze the size, scope and value of the arms trade on the dark web.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Strengthening the EU's resilience in the virtual domain

by Gonçalo Carriço [@goncalocarrico](#)
29 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This paper analyses the unstoppable phenomenon of globalisation through the lens of cyberspace. It looks at how the threats associated with this domain could evolve into a cyberwar. The paper assesses the EU's stance on cyberspace and elaborates the directions that the EU should develop and pursue in this regard.

Weeding out fake news: an approach to social media regulation

by Konrad Niklewicz [@konradniklewicz](#)
11 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (67 p.)

Social media are becoming the dominant source of information for significant parts of our societies with some positive aspects like their ability to mobilise for a political cause and how they enable greater and quicker flows of ideas across societies. This paper focuses on those aspects of social media that negatively affect the public debate, such as the spreading of fake news and the creation of 'echo chambers' of like-minded users who become isolated from alternative opinions. The paper proposes that social media platforms should be considered media companies and that they should be regulated by modified versions of existing press laws, adapted to suit the new technology.

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

Le fact-checking: une réponse à la crise de l'information et de la démocratie

by Farid Gueham
12 July 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (68 p.)

With the resurgence of fake news and disinformation on social networks, verification is also seeking legitimacy. Big data and open data have accelerated the processing of data, and changed the verification of information. What if fact-checking, expected as the remedy to the crisis of trust

and legitimacy that affects both the political and the media, was only the return to the sources of true information by the way of innovation?

Pew Research Center

The fate of online trust in the next decade

by Lee Rainie [@Irainie](#) and Janna Anderson [@JannaQ](#)

10 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

Many experts say lack of trust will not be a barrier to increased public reliance on the internet. Those who are hopeful that trust will grow expect technical and regulatory change will combat users' concerns about security and privacy. Those who have doubts about progress say people are inured to risk, addicted to convenience and will not be offered alternatives to online interaction. Some expect the very nature of trust will change.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Disruptions to political opinion - Political debate in the age of echo chambers and filter bubbles

by Simon Hegelich and Morteza Shahrezaye

3 July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [German](#) (11 p.)

Our society is in the midst of a digital revolution, the effects of which on our future are far from predictable. People can get information about political issues without too much effort, including via foreign media or activists' websites. Even private political communication has been liberated, inciting debate with others via the various social media platforms. Does the current wave of online misinformation mean a threat to the principles of democracy? Does the filter-bubble exist? Do we need a new infrastructure for political debate?

MISCELLANEOUS

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

Cultural integration of Muslims in Europe: prevention of cultural misunderstanding and radicalism

by Naciye Selin Senocak

July 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

This article explores the role of cultural diplomacy in preventing radicalisation across the EU states, specifically highlighting the importance of culturally integrating Muslim communities. Drawing on the European Commission's 2016 publication '[Communication on Supporting the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violent Extremism](#)', the author explores the strategies proposed by the contributing institutions, which includes a focus on employment, social exclusion and integration issues, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and intercultural dialogue, as well as broadcast media, the Internet, education and youth engagement.

United States Institute of Peace

Engaging religion and religious actors in countering violent extremism

by Peter Mandaville [@pmandaville](#) and Melissa Nozell [@MelissaNozell](#)

24 August 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This report explores the role of religion and religious actors in the work against violent extremism. It offers practical guidelines for policymakers and practitioners seeking to better understand the role of religion in violent extremism and best practices for partnering with religious actors to address the challenge.
